

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

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PASS TO AMBASSADOR EBERLE'S GROUP

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC FROM USUN APRIL 16:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN 1307

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: UNGA PFOR EGEN

SUBJ: UNGA SPECIAL SESSION: INITIAL REACTION TO SECRETARY'S
STATEMENT APRIL 15

SUMMARY: INITIAL UN CORRIDOR REACTIONS TO SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, BOTH SPONTANEOUS AND USUN-SOLICITED, WERE PREDOMINANTLY FAVORABLE- TO MARKED DEGREE. ARAB OIL PRODUCERS HAD SOME PRAISE AND OTHER ARABS WERE HIGHLY LAUDATORY. MOST LA'S, WEO'S AND ASIANS (EXCEPT FOR IRAN) WERE APPRECIATIVE. AFRICANS OF ALL STRIPES EXPRESSED APPROVAL. THE FERTILIZER PROPOSAL SEEMED TO BE THE SINGLE MOST- PRAISED THEME, AND FROM ALL QUARTERS THERE WAS SOME PRAISE FOR THE SPEECH'S CONSTRUCTIVE TONE AND CONCRETE PROPOSALS.

1. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD A RAPT AUDIENCE FOR HIS SPEECH AT THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION, AND THE HUBBUB OF WELL-WISHERS FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS AFTER THE SPEECH EQUALLED ANYTHING WE HAVE SEEN OR ARE LIKELY TO SEE AT THIS SESSION. FURTHERMORE, THE REACTION WE HEARD FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS WITHIN THE FIRST HOUR OR TWO
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AFTER THE SPEECH WAS DELIVERED WAS EXTRAORDINARILY FAVORABLE.

IT WAS CLEAR THAT EVEN MANY REPRESENTATIVES OF MANY COUNTRIES WHO HAVE BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE OUR ADVERSARIES ON ISSUES CONFRONTING THIS SESSION WERE IMPRESSED BY THE PROBING QUALITY OF THE SPEECH, ITS SINCERITY AND SOLEMNITY, AND THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT IT WAS WIDELY CONSIDERED TO BE AN ADDRESS WORTHY OF A GREAT POWER FROM WHOM LEADERSHIP IS ARDENTLY DESIRED.

2. AT SAME TIME, THE VERY FACT THAT US SECRETARY OF STATE, AFTER PERIOD OF SUSPENSE, APPEARED AT UN TO DELIVER CAREFULLY-WORDED AND ELOQUENT 40 MINUTE SPEECH IN ITSELF HAS A HEADY PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT WHICH TEMPORARILY OBSCURES SOME OF THE STUBBORN DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WE WILL HAVE WITH MANY COUNTRIES WHICH THE SPEECH ITSELF PRESAGES. WE MAY NOT HEAR SUCH ALMOST UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE REACTIONS A FEW DAYS HENCE, WHEN THESE DIFFERENCES REAPPEAR AND MOMENT FOR CONGRATULATIONS HAS PASSED. IN THE COMING DAYS WE WILL BE SHARPLY AT ODDS WITH MANY OF THOSE WHO SALUTED THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS TODAY, BUT WE THINK THE SPEECH SET AN EXCELLENT TONE FOR OUR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS SESSION AND BEYOND. END SUMMARY.

2. ARAB REACTIONS WERE VERY FAVORABLE IN THE CASE OF NON-PRODUCERS OF OIL, AND MIXED FROM THE OIL PRODUCERS. EGYPTIAN AND JORDANIAN PERMREPS WERE BOTH ENTHUSIASTIC: FORMER SAID HE LIKED WAY THEME OF INTERDEPENDENCE WAS STRESSED. TUNISIAN PERMREP CITED CONCRETENESS AND WILLINGNESS TO INVOLVE THE UN; MOROCCAN PRAISED THE SPEECH BUT SAID FOLLOW-UP IS NEEDED. YAR PERMREP FOUND IT "REASONABLE." ALGERIANS WERE SOMEWHAT GUARDED ABOUT SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON ENERGY BUT STRONGLY SUPPORTED IDEA OF INT'L FERTILIZER INSTITUTE, AND BOTH ALGERIAN MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY ABDESSLAM AND SONATRACH PRESIDENT GHOZALI SAID ALGERIA WOULD COOPERATE. SAUDI ARABIA PERM REP BAROODY PRAISED SPEECH AS EXCELLENT AND BALANCED: LIKED EMPHASIS ON INFLATION DANGER. UAE PERMREP SAID SPEECH WAS VERY GOOD, BETTER THAN HE EXPECTED. IN CONTRARY REACTION, LIBYAN REPS AND A KUWAITI REP TOOK HIGHLY NEGATIVE VIEW, SKEPTICAL PARTICULARLY ABOUT PROSPECT FOR CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM.

3. TWO IRANIAN REPS CONSULTED WERE RATHER NEGATIVE. AMONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR COMMENTS WAS THAT SPEECH CONTAINED NOTHING NEW. IT WAS LIKE THE EUROPEAN STATEMENTS ALREADY HEARD, THE DEVELOPEMENT SECTIONS WERE DISAPPOINTING AND THE TRADE AND MONETARY REFORM SECTION WAS VAGUE (THE LAST TWO REMARKS FROM CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT YEGANEH).

4. FROM THE ASIANS WE TALKED TO, APART FROM IRAN, THE REACTIONS WERE GENERALLY APPROVING, AND THE SUBCONTINENT

REPRESENTATIVES -- INDIA, PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA -- WERE ALL HIGHLY LAUDATORY. PRAISE ALSO CAME FROM THE INDONESIAN PERMREP. JAPANESE PERMREP PRONOUNCED STATEMENT AS "VERY POSITIVE"; OTHER JAPANESE REPS TENDED TO FIND MUCH IN COMMON WITH THEIR OWN APPROACH, BUT GOJ FINANCE EXPERT RESERVED COMMENT ON WEIGHTED IFI VOTING.

5. AFRICAN DELEGATIONS OF ALL STRIPES EXPRESSED APPROVAL. THE FERTILIZER PROPOSAL WAS PARTICULARLY WELL-REGARDED, NOTED AMONG OTHERS BY THE GHANA PERMREP, THE TANZANIAN PERMREP, THE MALAWI DEPUTY PERMREP, AND A CAMEROON REP. MANY AFRICANS APPLAUDED THE CONSTRUCTIVENESS AND CONCRETENESS OF THE SECRETARY'S APPROACH, INCLUDING REPS OF TANZANIA (RARELY AN AVOWED US ADMIRER), KENYA, MAURITANIA, ETHIOPIA. SUDAN PERMREP SAID SPEECH WAS SESSION'S BEST YET. A ZAMBIAN REP ADMIRER REASONING AND PREPARATION WHICH WENT INTO SPEECH. NIGERIAN THOUGHT IT WAS "INTERESTING". LIBERIAN AND GHANAIAN PERMREPS, THOUGH QUITE APPRECIATIVE, RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR ARAB CAPITAL TO INVEST IN US, POINTING OUT THAT IT SHOULD GO TO LDC'S. A KENYAN REP TEMPERED PRAISE LIGHTLY BY NOTING US HAD PROPOSED NO SPECIAL AID FUNDS AND SAID "WE KENYANS LIKE CARTELS", ANOTHER KENYAN URGED US TO FOLLOW THROUGH AND NOT MAKE EMPTY PROPOSALS LIKE SOVIET ROB.

6. LA REACTIONS GENERALLY WERE FAVORABLE. TWO MEXICAN AMBASSADORS AND A MFA OFFICIAL WERE APPROVING. ARGENTINE PERMREP AND AN AIDE TOLD US THEY FOUND SPEECH THOUGHTFUL AND POSITIVE. EL SALVADORAN ALTERNATE PERMREP SAID SPEECH WAS BEST YET AT SPECIAL SESSION. COLOMBIAN FONMIN VASQUEZ REPORTED BY AN INTERMEDIARY TO HAVE SAID PROPOSALS TO LIBERALIZE IMPORTS FROM LDC'S SHOULD BE APPLIED BY US TO LA'S IMMEDIATELY AND VASQUEZ WOULD TELL THE SECRETARY SO LATE
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